

Slave Cabins
Columbia Farm
10181 Fish Hatchery Road
Fairlee, Maryland **Early 19th century**

K-550

Two small slave cabins remain on this site. They are significant as rare survivors of slave housing in Kent County. Their austerity demonstrates the primitive housing provided for slaves. The cabins are connected and have common walls; on one end is a matching meat house, on the other was a third cabin, no longer in existence. The two cabins are identical, 10 feet square with low pitched rooves. The walls are made of wide vertical boards, simple box cornices are below the eaves.. There were originally no windows and each has one door to the exterior. The cabins have dirt floors and no fireplaces. They are located about one hundred feet behind the remaining 18th century wing of the main farm house. Beyond them is a frame granary building, probably of mid-19th century origin.

Chickens have been the only occupants of the cabins for at least 150 years.

The cabins are located on a large farm bought in the mid-nineteenth century by John Corey, a New Hampshire native, who originally came to Kent County as a school teacher. Two brothers followed him, and they became successful and progressive farmers. Corey demolished all of the original farmhouse except one wing that remains today. It is a one-room and attic structure, with shed dormers, a chimney in the center of the gable with stairway on one side - a typical simple eighteenth or early nineteenth century building. Corey replaced the original house with a large, two-story house built about 1850. An indication of Corey's progressive spirit and prosperity is an early plumbing system that pumped hot water to the second floor bathroom.

Corey did not own slaves, instead he used free laborers on his farm, who possibly had their own housing elsewhere. Corey converted the cabins to chicken houses. During the Civil War he supported the Union cause. On one occasion a local Confederate sympathizer rode up to his house, carrying a gun and charging Corey with being a Union man. Corey called to his wife "Don't we need a chicken for dinner?" Upon her assent, Corey shot the head off a chicken running across the yard. The Confederate harasser promptly departed.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

K-550

COLUMBIA FARM, SLAVE CABIN

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization

- 1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 9) | Rural Agrarian Intensification | 1680-1815 |
| 10) | Agricultural-Industrial Transition | 1815-1870 |

Historical Period Theme

- 2) Architecture
- 7) Social Cultural

Resource Type

Building, private, occupied, public acquisition, not applicable, accessible restricted,
private residence

Historic Environment - Rural

Historic Functions and Uses - Dwelling/chicken house

Unknown Design Source

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. *K-530*

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic *Columbia Farm. Slave Cabins*

and/or common *Reece Corey House, Slave Cabins*

2. Location

street & number *10181 Fish* *Hatchery Road, corner of Handy Point Road* ☐ not for publication

city, town *Fairlee* ☒ vicinity of congressional district *One*

state *MD* county *Kent*

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name *R. Reece Corey*

street & number *Hatchery Road* telephone no.: *410-778-3914*

city, town *Fairlee* state and zip code *MD*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Kent County Courthouse* liber *EHP 85*

street & number *Cross Street* folio *223*

city, town *Chestertown* state *MD*

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title *None*

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-550

Condition
☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

7. These two small, primitive slave cabins were part of a row, including a meat house. Their walls are simply wide vertical boards. They have dirt floors and originally had no windows.

These two cabins are part of a connected row with common walls; on one end is a matching meat house, on the other was a third cabin, no longer in existence. The two cabins are identical, 12 feet square with low pitched roofs. The walls are wide vertical boards with simple box soffits. There were originally no windows and each has one door to the exterior. The cabins have dirt floors and no fireplaces. They are located about one hundred feet behind the remaining 18th century wing of the main farm house. Beyond them is a frame granary building, probably of mid-19th century origin. Chickens have been the only occupants of the cabins for at least 150 years.

8. Significance

Survey No.

K-550

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1780-1800 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

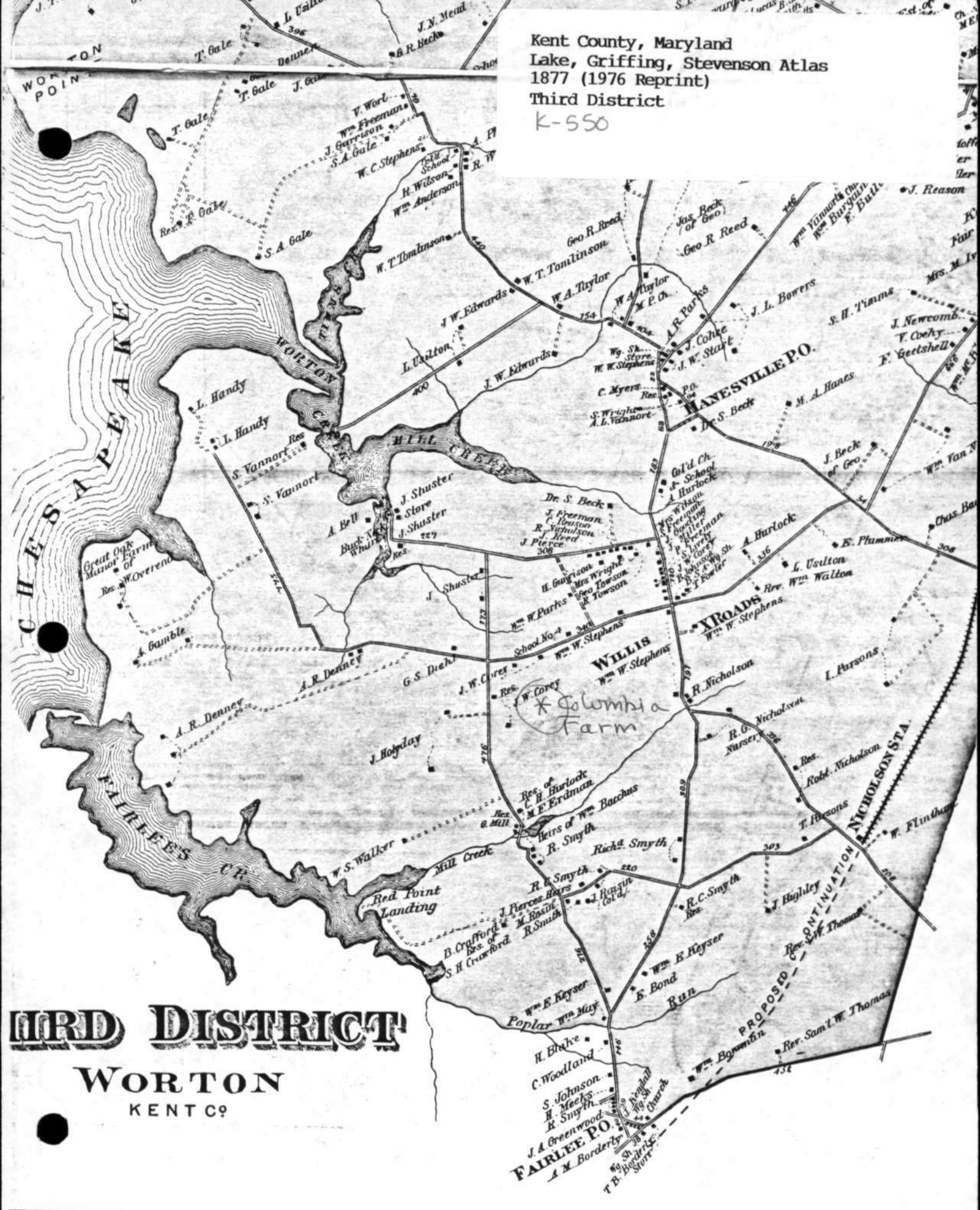
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These cabins are significant as rare survivors of slave housing in Kent County; their austerity demonstrates the primitive housing provided for slaves. The owner of this farm after 1850 used free labor, so the cabins may not have been occupied after 1850.

The slave cabins are located on a large farm bought in the mid-nineteenth century by John Corey, a New Hampshire native, who originally came to Kent County as a school teacher. Two brothers followed him; and they became successful and progressive farmers. Corey demolished all of the original farm house except one wing that remains today. It is a one room and attic structure with shed dormers, a chimney in the center of the building with stairway on one side - a typical simple 18th or early 19th century building. Corey replaced the original house with a large, two-story house built about 1850. An indication of Corey's progressive spirit and prosperity is an early plumbing system that pumped hot water to the second floor bathroom.

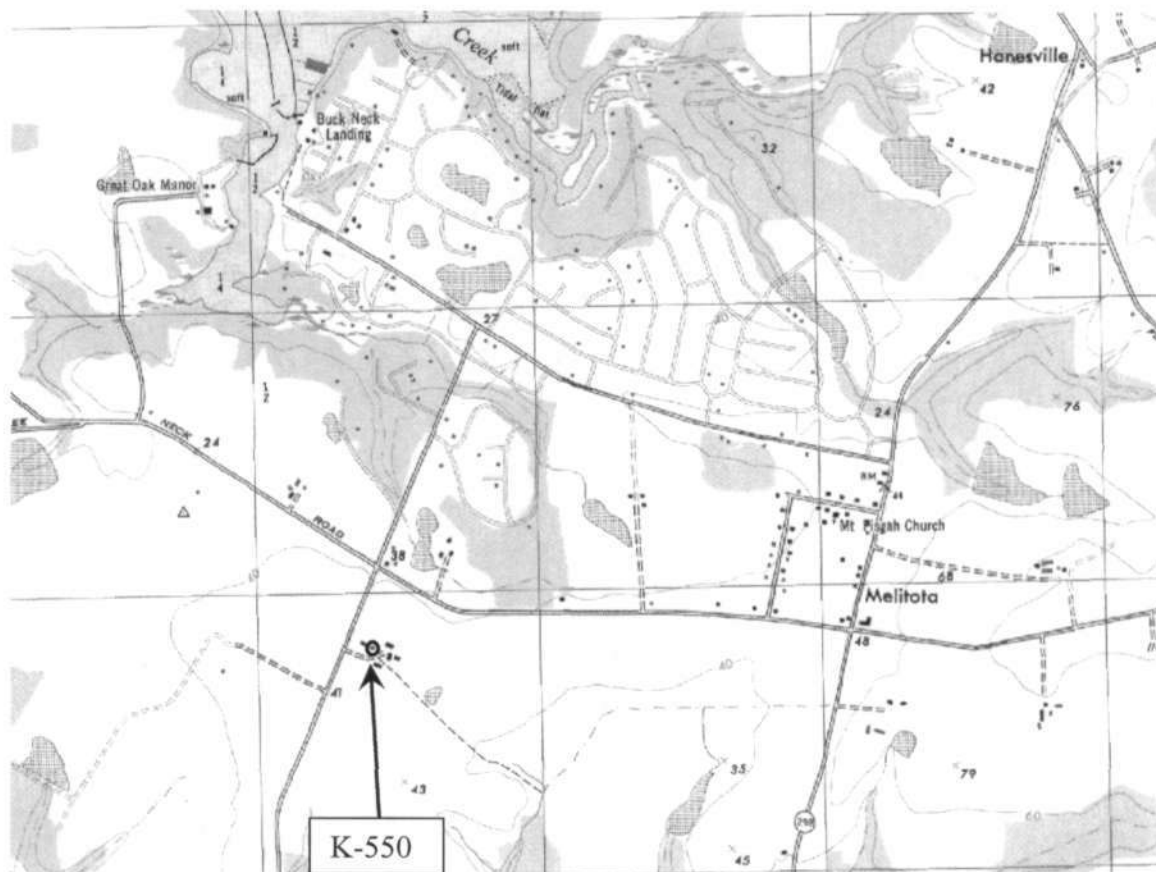
Corey did not own slaves; instead, he used free laborers on his farm, who possibly had their own housing elsewhere. During the Civil War he supported the Union cause. On one occasion a local Confederate sympathizer rode up to his house, carrying a gun and charging Corey with being a Union man. Corey called to his wife "Don't we need a chicken for dinner?" Upon her assent, Corey shot the head off a chicken running across the yard. The Confederate harrasser promptly departed.

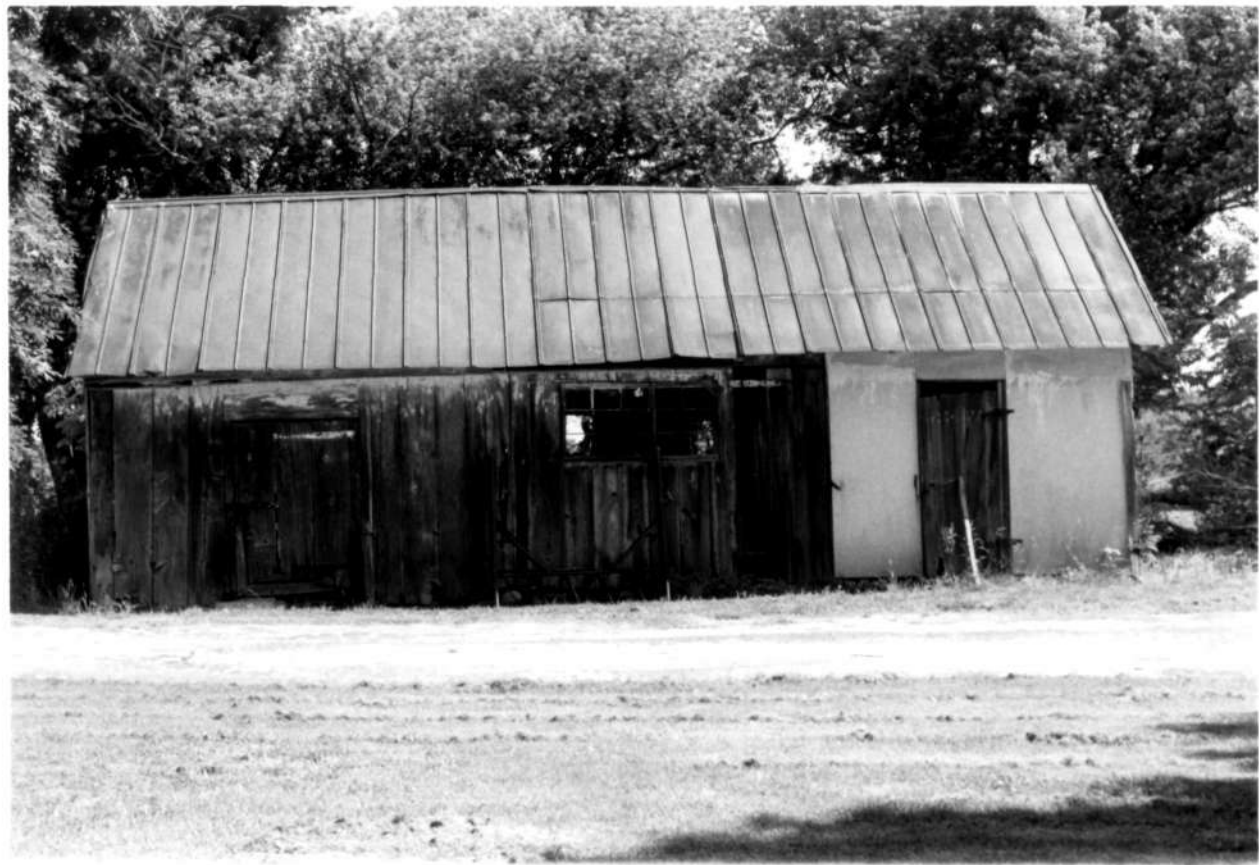
Kent County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas
1877 (1976 Reprint)
Third District
K-550



THIRD DISTRICT
WORTON
KENT CO

K-550
Columbia Farm Slave Cabins
10181 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Melitota vicinity
Hanesville Quad.
Kent County





Columbia Farm K-550

Smoke House + Quarters

South ew.

M. Bourne

May 1996